

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03265 071443Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-20 SAB-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 SY-04

A-01 OPR-02 SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 069659

R 062214Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 844

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 3265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PN

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROTEST

SUMMARY. ON JUNE 4, STUDENTS FROM THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND COMMERCE - WITH NEARLY 8,000 STUDENTS, THE UNIVERSITY'S LARGEST SCHOOL -DECLARED A 24 HOUR STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF DEMANDS FOR A NEW CLASSROOM BUILDING, THE REMOVAL OF THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF AGRONOMY AND THE "EXEMPLARY" PUNISHMENT OF A NATIONAL GUARD AGENT WHO SHOT AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED A CHEMISTRY STUDENT. IN ADDITION TO THE STRIKE, THE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED AT THE OFFICES OF UNIVERSITY RECTOR ROMULO ESCOBAR AND, ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS ACCOUNT, STAGED A MARCH DOWN CENTRAL AVENUE, THE CITY'S PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL THOROUGHFARE. THE CURRENT DEMONSTRATIONS, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE LAW STUDENT AGITATION FOR JUDICIAL REFORM, IS SECOND MAJOR STUDENT PROTEST SINCE APRIL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COMING UP WITH THEIR MIXED BAG OF DEMANDS, THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND COMMERCE STUDENTS, ORGANIZED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEFTIST DOMINATED PANAMANIAN STUDENT FEDERATION (FEP), OPPORTUNISTICALLY WEDDED THEIR DEMAND FOR EXPANDED CLASSROOM FACILITIES TO A LONG BREWING CAMPAIGN BY FEP LED AGRONOMY STUDENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF DEAN HECTOR TOUX AND A CHEMISTRY SCHOOL STUDENT PROTEST OVER THE JUNE 1 SHOOTING BY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 03265 071443Z

A NATIONAL GUARDSMAN OF MARCO GUILLEN, A UNIVERSITY CHEMISTRY

STUDENT. IN RESPONSE TO DEMAND FOR A NEW CLASSROOM FACILITY FOR THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, ESCOBAR REPORTEDLY AGREED TO ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A MEETING SOUGHT BY THE STUDENTS WITH MINISTER OF PLANNING BARLETTA TO HEAR HIS EXPLANATION WHY PROVISION WAS NOT MADE IN BUDGET FOR BADLY NEEDED SPACE.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE SHOOTING INCIDENT, WHICH ACCORDING TO THE INJURED BOY'S FATHER OCCURRED WHEN AN OFF-DUTY NATIONAL GUARDSMAN SHOT YOUNG GUILLEN POINT BLANK IN THE BACK AT A STUDENT DANCE IN PANAMA CITY, THE RECTOR INFORMED THE PROTESTING STUDENTS THAT HE HAD NAMED A COMMISSION OF STUDENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY'S LEGAL ADVISOR TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT THE THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

THE LEGAL ADVISOR WILL ALSO REPRESENT GUILLEN'S FAMILY. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, LT. COL. MANUEL ARAUZ, CHIEF OF THE GN TRAFFIC DIVISION AND COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE GUARDSMAN IN QUESTION, HAS TURNED THE MATTER OVER TO THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND COMMISSIONED THE NECESSARY MEDICAL ATTENTION. YOUNG GUILLEN IS REPORTEDLY IN SERIOUS CONDITION WITH A BULLET, WHICH GRAZED HIS SPINE AND FRACTURED TWO RIBS, STILL LODGED IN HIS RIB CAGE. ALTHOUGH THE ACCUSED GUARDSMAN IS BELIEVED UNDER DETENTION, IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT IF ANY PUNISHMENT WILL BE METED OUT. AMONG THE FATHER'S CHARGES, WHICH WERE PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS JUNE 5, WAS AN ATTEMPTED OFFICIAL COVERUP. BEFORE BEING TAKEN UP BY THE STUDENTS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, THE CHEMISTRY SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION HAD CALLED FOR THE GUARDSMAN'S PUNISHMENT AND THE ELIMINATION OF "KILLERS" FROM GN RANKS.

3. UNIVERSITY RECTOR ESCOBAR REPORTEDLY HAS ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO URGE OUSTER OF ROUX. THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT PROCESSED AID LOAN TO BE USED BY THE SCHOOL OF AGRONOMY FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STRONGLY DESIRED BY RUX. TWENTY-FIVE FEP LED STUDENT GROUPS HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR ROUX'S REMOVAL ON GROUNDS THAT HE HAS SOUGHT TO BLOCK TRANSFER OF FACULTY OF AGRONOMY TO CHIRIQUI PROVINCE, AND THAT HE WAS PRO-U.S. STUDENTS HAVE ALSO DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS DEPICTING ROUX ON HIS KNEES BEFORE UNCLE SAM BEGGING FOR MONEY. ROUX'S STATUS IS STILL UNDECIDED, ALTHOUGH THE AGRONOMY FACULTY COUNCIL HAS GIVEN HIM ITS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE AND AN EMBASSY SOURCE HAS STATED THAT STUDENT SUPPORT FOR FEP'S CAMPAIGN IS ERODING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 03265 071443Z

4. COMMENT. OF THE CURRENT STUDENT DEMANDS, THE GOP IS APT TO BE MOST SENSITIVE ABOUT THAT AIMED AT THE NATIONAL GUARD. WHILE THE FEP EFFORT TO OUST DEAN ROUX WILL POSE ITS OWN PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT - AND COULD YET DEVELOP INTO A MAJOR BROUHAHA - A STUDENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST DEPARTMENT OF GUARDSMEN IS NOT THE SORT OF PROTEST TORRIJOS COULD LIKELY TOLERATE FOR LONG. THAT THE GUARDIA HAS SUBMITTED THE GUILLEN INCIDENT TO AN INVESTIGATION

IS AN INDICATION THAT DISCIPLINARY ACTION HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT.
PATTERN OF STUDENT-GOP FRICTION IN RECENT MONTHS INDICATES THAT
INTERESTS OF STUDENTS AND GOP MAY BE DIVERGING. IF THIS IS TRUE
ONE SIDE MUST ADJUST TO OTHER OR INCREASED CONFLICTS WILL BECOME
INEVITABLE.

JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, UNIVERSITIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PANAMA03265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740146-0502
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740669/aaaachjb.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: RM, IS SECOND MAJOR STUDENT PROTEST, SINCE APRIL. END SUMMARY.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIVERSITY STUDENTS PROTEST SUMMARY. ON JUNE 4, STUDENTS FROM THE FACULTY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PN, (ROUX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005